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DRAFTED BY EUR:SE:TU:DBMCCLELLAN:DBM

APPROVED BY C:EDERWINSKI

EUR:SE:DGLEYSTEEN

EUR - ROBLACKWILL

PA - JKELLY (DRAFT)

C - JSULLIVAN (DRAFT)

S/S:JCOVEY

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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TAGS: SOCI, TU, PTER

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH TURKISH-AMERICAN  
REPRESENTATIVES

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH-AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (ATAA) MET MAY 5 WITH  
DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR ~~DERWINSKI~~ TO DISCUSS THE BULLETIN  
ARTICLE ON ARMENIAN TERRORISM. ATAA PRESIDENT,  
PROFESSOR OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY DR. ~~ULKU~~ ~~ULGUR~~;  
CALIFORNIA ATAA VICE PRESIDENT MRS. ~~BONNIE~~ ~~KASLAN~~; AND  
ATAA SECRETARY GENERAL MR. ~~AGI~~ ~~SEVIN~~, A SENIOR OFFICIAL  
AT THE DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION, REPRESENTED THE

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PAGE 02 STATE 132393

TURKISH-AMERICANS. PUBLIC AFFAIRS DAS KELLY AND EUR/SE DIRECTOR GLEYSTEN ALSO PARTICIPATED. SPECIAL ASSISTANTS TO THE COUNSELOR SULLIVAN AND PIPER, AND TURKISH DESK OFFICER MCCLELLAN WERE ALSO PRESENT. HAVING REQUESTED A MEETING SIMILAR TO THAT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THE ATAA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE BULLETIN ARTICLE AND ITS AFTERMATH REINFORCED ANTI-TURKISH ATTITUDES. THEY EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION AT WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS THE ARMENIAN CAMPAIGN TO DISTORT HISTORY AND JUSTIFY TERRORISM THROUGH PERPETUATION OF THE GENOCIDE MYTH. DERWINSKI EMPHASIZED SPECIAL INTEREST IN ALL ETHNIC GROUPS' CONCERNS. END SUMMARY

3. ULGUR BEGAN BY NOTING SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CALL ON DERWINSKI. ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS WAS FORMED ONLY FIVE YEARS AGO TO UNITE THE VARIOUS CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE 150,000 TURKISH-AMERICANS--MOST OF WHOM ARE HIGHLY EDUCATED TURKS WHO HAVE SETTLED IN THE U.S. FOR PROFESSIONAL REASONS AND ARE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO MAINSTREAM AMERICAN LIFE. ULGUR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE "EQUAL-TIME" TO PRESENT THE TURKISH-AMERICAN VIEW AS THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD EARLIER IN THEIR MEETING WITH THE COUNSELOR ON THE BULLETIN ARTICLE.

WITH REGARD TO THE CONTROVERSIAL BULLETIN ARTICLE ON ARMENIAN TERRORISM, KASLAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WHILE THE FOCUS WAS TERRORISM, THE ARTICLE APPEARED TO TAKE THE SAME POSITION AS THAT OF THE ARMENIAN DASHNAG: TERRORISM CANNOT BE CONDONED, BUT ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE REASONS BEHIND IT. SHE EMPHASIZED TURKISH-AMERICAN CONCERN ABOUT THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUBTLE RATIONALIZATION OF ARMENIAN TERRORISM FOUND IN THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN PRESS AND ELSEWHERE. SHE NOTED THAT THIS YEAR 42 CONGRESSMEN HAD MADE STATEMENTS DURING THE HOUSE SPECIAL ORDER ON THE ARMENIAN ISSUE. SEVIN ADDED THAT THE DISTORTIONS OF HISTORY FEED UPON THEMSELVES AND BECOME "HISTORICAL FACT."

6. DERWINSKI SAID HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE ATAA REPRESENTATIVES AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ALL ETHNIC GROUPS. HE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT THE ARMENIAN PRESS MAY HAVE SAID ABOUT THE MEETING WITH THE ARMENIAN-AMERICANS.

7. KELLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE BULLETIN ARTICLE WAS NOT A STATEMENT OF POLICY; AS PART OF A SPECIAL FEATURE ON TERRORISM IT REFLECTED ONLY THE VIEWS OF THE AUTHOR. AT NO TIME WAS THE CONTENT OF THE ARTICLE CONSIDERED AT THE POLICY LEVEL. GLEYSTEN STRESSED OUR STRONG CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM AND THE EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING TO COMBAT IT. HE SAID THE BULLETIN ARTICLE WAS BASED ON A WORKING DOCUMENT PREPARED TO ASSIST LOCAL POLICE FORCES IN THEIR PROTECTION OF TURKISH DIPLOMATS AND INSTALLATIONS.

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4. ULGUR EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT INCREASED THREATS AGAINST TURKISH ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. AS WELL AS ARMENIAN ATTEMPTS TO PERPETUATE THE GENOCIDE MYTH. HE COMMENTED THAT ONE CANNOT MAKE HISTORY BY POLITICAL ACTIVISM. UNFORTUNATELY THE GOT HAS REMAINED SILENT UNTIL NOW, BUT "AT OUR ENCOURAGEMENT" THE ARCHIVES ARE

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PAGE 03 STATE 132395

TO BE OPENED AND IMPARTIAL HISTORIANS WELCOMED. ULGUR ADDED THAT THE ARMENIAN TERRORISTS WANT MORE THAN AN APOLOGY FROM THE GOT FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN WORLD WAR I, THEY WANT A PIECE OF TURKISH TERRITORY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 64 STATE 132393

3. THE ATAA REPRESENTATIVES FOCUSED ALMOST ENTIRELY  
ON THE BULLETIN ARTICLE IN THEIR REMARKS. THEY SEEMED  
PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR  
VIEWS TO SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. SHULTZ

6